



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Indiana Superintendents and Building Principals

**From:** Dr. George Frampton, Chief School Certification Officer

**Date:** July 1, 2010

**Subject:** Clarification Concerning Legal Standards & School Improvement Plans.

---

The Indiana Department of Education has received questions regarding verification of legal standards and the submission of school improvement plans. The items below will provide some clarification.

- The DOE has approved the format for the North Central Association's school improvement plan. Schools may submit using this format, provided that the plan meets Indiana SIP requirements and has been reviewed and revised yearly as required by the DOE and North Central.
- In the School Improvement Plan FAQ memo sent via SAMS/PAMS, there was a statement:

14. *My building is classified as an "accredited program." Are we required to produce a school improvement plan?* A SIP is not required for an accredited program.

An 'accredited program' refers to some vocational schools, special education cooperatives, or alternative schools whose students are officially reported on another school's DOE-ME for enrollment funding. These schools do not submit enrollment data to the DOE, administer ISTEP etc. These accredited programs derive their accreditation from the district(s) that operate the school or from the schools who send students to the accredited program for all or part of an instructional day.

- Who is exempt from completing the legal standards process:
  - Freeway accredited schools have different accountability measures and are not required to complete the legal standards. A Freeway accredited school's five year accreditation petition agreement with the Indiana State Board of Education serves as the school improvement plan for these schools.
  - Charter schools have different governance and accountability measures and also are not required to complete the legal standards. Their charter from the sponsoring entity serves the school as its improvement plan.

All other public and private accredited school must complete the legal standards assurance application.

- The submission of electronic health screening information is a separate and distinct process that is now online. This report is separate from Legal Standard 6, Student Health Compliance and does not need to have been completed to allow schools to check and sign-off their compliance with standard 6.

More information regarding this separate submission of electronic data can be found in a [document posted on the Health Services web site](#).